



County of Los Angeles



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Hua Wenyi

1997 NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

Whereas HUA WENYI IS REGARDED AS THE INTERNATIONAL PREMIER ARTIST IN ONE OF CHINA'S OLDEST AND MOST REFINED FORMS OF OPERA—THE KUNQU, AND IS CONSIDERED THE MODEL FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS FEMALE ROLE OF GUIMENDAN; MS. WENYI IS ACCLAIMED FOR HER EXQUISITE GESTURING, FLAWLESS DICTION, AND BEAUTIFUL VOICE THAT EARNED HER THE SOBRIQUET "LITTLE MEI LAN FANG."; AND

Whereas HUA WENYI WAS BORN IN 1941 IN SHANGHAI AND STUDIED GUIMENDAN PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE AT THE SHANGHAI OPERA SCHOOL AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST CLASS OF KUN OPERA STUDENTS; MS. WENYI GRADUATED IN 1961 AS THE SCHOOL'S TOP STUDENT; AND

Whereas MS. WENYI WAS A MEMBER OF THE SHANGHAI YOUTH BEIJING AND KUNQU TROUPE FROM 1961-1971; WITH THE ONSET OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN 1971 AND ITS CONDEMNATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE OPERA, SHE WAS RELEGATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF REVOLUTIONARY BEIJING-STYLE WORKS UNTIL THE DOWNFALL OF THE GANG OF FOUR; AND

Whereas HUA WENYI JOINED THE SHANGHAI KUN OPERA COMPANY IN 1978 AND IN 1986 SHE RECEIVED CHINA'S HIGHEST ARTISTIC HONOR, THE PLUM BLOSSOM AWARD FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN THE PLAY "YU ZANJI"; MS. WENYI SETTLED IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1989 AND FOUNDED THE HIGHLY REGARDED HUA KUN OPERA IN SAN FRANCISCO;

Now, therefore, be it resolved THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS HUA WENYI AS A 1997 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT, THE HIGHEST HONOR FOR FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTISTS, AND EXTENDS HER BEST WISHES CONTINUED SUCCESS.

ADOPTED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997



Mike Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District

Ray Grossman
Chairman of the Board
Supervisor, Third District

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Supervisor, First District

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Supervisor, Second District

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